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CENTRAL FAX CENTER****NOV 22 2005****CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

1. (Previously Presented) A seal element for use in a packer comprising:
an energizing element adapted to store potential energy prior to the packer being run to a predetermined position in a well; and
a sealing layer covering at least a portion of the energizing element;
wherein the energizing element is adapted to release at least some of the potential energy at the predetermined position to radially expand the energizing element and establish contact between the sealing layer and a wall enclosing the packer.
2. (Previously Presented) The seal element of claim 1 in which the energizing element comprises a metallic substrate.
3. (Previously Presented) The seal element of claim 1 in which the energizing element comprises a composite material.
- 4.-5. (Cancelled)
6. (Previously Presented) The seal element of claim 1 in which the energizing element comprises a spring.
- 7.-8. (Cancelled)
9. (Original) The seal element of claim 1 in which the wall is an inner surface of a pipe.
10. (Original) The seal element of claim 1 in which the wall is a wellbore.
11. (Original) The seal element of claim 1 further comprising a support sleeve disposed around the energizing element.

12. (Currently Amended) The seal element of claim ~~4~~ 11 in which the support sleeve comprises a metal.

13. (Original) The seal element of claim 1 in which the support sleeve is embedded in the sealing layer.

14.-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method usable with a well comprising:
storing potential energy in a seal element of a packer before deploying the packer downhole in the well;
after the storing, running the packer into the well;
positioning the packer at a position at which a seal is to be formed in an annulus of the well;
setting the packer by releasing at least some of the potential energy to form a seal between the packer and a wall surrounding the packer; and
maintaining the seal using at least some of the potential energy remaining in the potential energy stored in the ~~energized~~ seal element.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 in which the storing is performed by at least deforming an elastic substrate of the seal element.

20.-24. (Cancelled).

25. (Previously Presented) A seal element for use in a packer deployed in a well, comprising:
a support sleeve;
a sealing layer at least partially enclosing the support sleeve; and
a tube comprising slots, the tube adapted to radially extend against the support sleeve to press the sealing layer against a wall enclosing the packer to establish a sealing contact between the sealing layer and the wall.

26. (Previously Presented) The seal element of claim 25, wherein the slots comprise helical slots.

27. (Previously Presented) The seal element of claim 25, wherein the tube is adapted to expand when compressed axially.

28.-30. (Cancelled)

31. (New) A seal element usable with a packer, comprising:
a support sleeve;
a sealing layer at least partially enclosing the support sleeve;
a bow adapted to remain retracted while the packer is run into a well and radially extend against the support sleeve to press the sealing layer against a wall that encloses the packer to form a sealing contact between the sealing layer and the wall; and
a wedge adapted to engage the bow to radially extend the bow.